

THE Dog Face Daily

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Serving Task Force Marne



Courtesy photo

Sgt. Adam Hedrick, an infantryman with the 1st Battalion, 15th Infantry Regiment, from Corona, Calif., pulls security during the reopening ceremony of the road connecting Salman Pak and al Lej Feb. 29.

Iraqis celebrate road, CP reopening

STAFF SGT. SEAN RILEY
3RD HBCT 3RD INF. DIV.

FOB HAMMER — Residents of Salman Pak and al Lej breathed a collective sigh of relief Feb. 29 as more than 150 Sons of Iraq, Iraqi Security Forces and Coalition forces leaders met to celebrate the reopening of the al Lej road, the main thoroughfare connecting Salman Pak and al Lej.

The road had been closed to civilians after a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device detonated at a traffic checkpoint, killing seven Iraqi National Policemen in May.

Since construction began more than two weeks ago on Combat Outpost Carver, home to Company B, 1st Battalion, 15th Infantry Regiment, Soldiers had been assessing needs of local. Their number one concern: reopen the road to Salman Pak.

Coalition leaders, local ISF and SoI members, began working together on a plan to restore and improve Checkpoint 600, where the attack had occurred and set the conditions for safe movement of civilians along the road.

Local leaders hope the checkpoint and road reopening will bring more people to the area.

"We have reopened the city of Salman Pak to Dura'ya, Kanasa, and al Lej — the whole Mada'in Qada can now move freely," said Brig. Gen. Aamir, the 1st Brigade, 1st National Police commander, following the road's ribbon-cutting ceremony.

Sheik Ali Hussein, the SoI leader for Salman Pak and al Bawi, opened his home for a luncheon attended by more than 150 guests after the ceremony.

"We are finally to the point where we can come to an event and see Sunni and Shia sheiks working together to secure their country," said 1-15th Inf. Regt. Command Sgt. Maj. Mark Moore.



Photos by Spc. Amanda McBride

Spc. Vincent Reed, 2nd Platoon, Co. A, 2-69th Armor, provides security during Operation Varsity Feb. 28. At right, 2-69 Armor Soldiers and Iraqi Soldiers from 2/2/8th IA Div. clear a cabbage field during Operation Varsity in the Obedi region of Iraq Feb. 28.



Obedi region safer thanks to CF, IA

SPC. AMANDA MCBRIDE
4TH BCT, 3RD INF. DIV.

FOB KALSU — Iraqi Army Soldiers and Coalition forces found a weapons cache and detained numerous insurgents during Operation Varsity Feb. 28 in the Obedi region of Iraq.

Iraqi Soldiers from 2nd Battalion, 2nd Brigade, 8th Iraqi Army Division and Soldiers from Company A, 2nd Battalion, 69th Armor Regiment, currently attached to 4th Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, conducted the operation in order to clear the area

of al-Qaeda resources.

While conducting a daytime foot patrol, Soldiers uncovered the cache containing munitions and supplies for making improvised explosive devices.

The Soldiers also discovered a building rigged with multiple explosives. An Air Force F-18 jet was called in to destroy the structure with two Excalibur GPS guided artillery rounds and two 500-pound bombs.

"The thing is getting ammunition out of the hands of enemies and clearing the al-Qaeda stronghold," said Capt. James Browning, commander of Co. A,

2-69 Armor Regt.

Initially planned by Iraqi Security Forces, Coalition forces and IA worked together to finalize mission plans. Browning said with the forces combining their efforts, security is improving.

"Now where (the IA) are at, they're able to plan, execute and basically resource an operation of this size and magnitude," Browning said. "This has been an opportunity for both the Iraqi Army and Coalition forces to work together and clear out an area."

The detainees were turned over to the IA for further questioning.

THE Dog Face Daily

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The Fort Stewart Frontline wants to hear from you!

The Fort Stewart, Ga., newspaper, *The Frontline*, would like to feature Soldier Diaries in its July 4 special edition.

Soldiers who would like to share excerpts of their journals or write about a memorable event can send submissions to the Public Affairs Office at mnd-c_pao@iraq.centcom.mil.

Families in the Hinesville and Savannah areas would like to hear from their Soldiers and vicariously experience day-to-day life in Iraq.

The Public Affairs Office will determine what submissions will be forward to the Frontline. The deadline to send your article into the PAO is June 2.

Coalition kindness



Sgt. 1st Class Stacy Niles

Georgian Cpl. Ana Shelia, a 1st Georgian Brigade staff member, gives a child a school package and a magazine about the Georgian military during an assessment in Joba Da'al Feb. 29. The 214th Fires Brigade, El Salvador Cuscatlán Battalion and 1st Georgian Infantry Brigade are conducting joint assessments of villages surrounding Coalition checkpoints to build relationships and identify projects that Coalition forces can complete to help villagers.

Safety Thought of the Day

Personnel In and Around Vehicles

- Never walk or stand between two vehicles if either engine is running.
 - Never walk between a vehicle and the ground guide.
 - Always use three points of contact when climbing or while on top of a vehicle.
 - Watch for doors and other objects when bending or lifting around vehicles.
 - Ensure personnel and equipment are clear when closing and opening vehicle doors, hatches, or rotating turrets.
 - Use the appropriate TMs when performing maintenance.
 - Stand clear of cranes and lifts when in operation.
- Stop and correct unsafe acts and/or hazards.

Headline Highlights

Pop culture auction; exhumed Catholic saint

Gun that killed JFK assassin in pop culture auction

NEW YORK (Reuters) — It is billed as the best pop culture collection ever assembled — ranging from the gun used to kill the assassin of President John F. Kennedy to the Wicked Witch of the West's hat from "The Wizard of Oz."

Collected over the past 25 years by South Florida property developer Anthony Pugliese, the collection, which also includes a whip and the holy grail from "Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade," will be put up for auction next month in Las Vegas.

Arlan Ettinger, president of New York-based auction house Guernsey's, said the collection of 850 lots could fetch more than \$5 million when it goes under the hammer at The Palms Resort and Casino on March 15 and 16.

"This collection is as good as it gets," said Ettinger, with "The Maltese Falcon" resin statuette sitting on his desk alongside the gun used to kill Kennedy's assassin Lee Harvey Oswald and the "Braveheart" sword from the Oscar-winning film.

"Most collections have one or two great things and then things trail off from there," he said. "This collection, there would have to be 100 items here, any one of which would be a star attraction anywhere else."

He said the Colt Cobra revolver used by Jack Ruby to kill Oswald in 1963, just days after Oswald was arrested for assassinating Kennedy, could fetch several million dollars alone. The initials of detectives who handled the gun are scratched on it.

"The whole world saw that unfold live and here's the very gun and the hat that Jack Ruby was wearing," said Ettinger, adding that the tag tied to Oswald's toe to identify his corpse and a lock of his hair were also to be auctioned.

Also up for grabs is the jacket worn by Beatle John Lennon in the "Imagine" video, the wedding dress worn by pop star Madonna in her "Like a Virgin" video, a "Superman" costume worn by Christopher Reeve, and an Andy Warhol paint brush.

Ettinger said Pugliese was selling his collection, which he had kept in a large vault at his offices, because it "had been his passion, but now has taken a back seat" to a green housing development he was working on.

Popular Italian Catholic saint exhumed 40 years on

ROME (Reuters) — The body of the mystic monk Padre Pio, one of the Roman Catholic world's most revered saints who died 40 years ago, has been exhumed to be prepared for display to his many devotees.

The body of the Capuchin friar, who was said to have had the stigmata — the wounds of Christ's crucifixion — on his hands and feet — is to be conserved and put in a part-glass coffin for at least several months from April 24.

A Church statement said the body was in "fair condition," particularly the hands, which Archbishop Domenico D'Ambrosio, who witnessed the exhumation in the southern Italian town where Pio died, said "looked like they had just undergone a manicure."

A spokesman for the monastery at

San Giovanni Rotondo said he believed morticians would be able to conserve the face of the bearded monk well enough for it to be recognizable.

The body, which had been buried under marble in a crypt, was exhumed during a three-hour service that ended after midnight.

A Catholic magazine once found that far more Italian Catholics prayed to Padre Pio than to any other icon of the faith, including the Virgin Mary or Jesus.

Some 7 million people visit his tomb every year. There are some 3,000 "Padre Pio Prayer Groups" around the world, with a membership of around 3 million. The friar, born Francesco Forgione, died in 1968 aged 81.

Among the stories that surround him is one that he wrestled with the devil in his monastery cell.

Padre Pio is also said to have predicted future events, to have been seen in two places at once, and to have been able to tell people their sins before they confessed them to him.

Pope John Paul II made him a saint in 2002 at a ceremony that drew one of the biggest crowds ever to the Vatican after the Church said it had found evidence that the miraculous cure of a sick woman was due to the dead monk's intercession. But Padre Pio was dogged during his life and even after his death by accusations that he was a fraud.

A new book last year suggested he was a self-harming man who may have used carbolic acid to create wounds in his hands mimicking those of Christ when he was nailed to the cross.

Church officials have repeatedly denied that he was a fake.

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1			7	5		3	8	
		3		2	6			8
		9				5		
6			9	7		4		
	7	1		6	8			3
							1	
5		2		9				7

from Sudoku: The Original Brain Workout From Japan

Solution to yesterday's puzzle:

6	7	3	1	4	5	8	9	2
8	5	9	2	7	3	6	1	4
4	1	2	8	9	6	5	3	7
5	6	1	4	3	2	9	7	8
2	4	8	9	1	7	3	5	6
9	3	7	6	5	8	2	4	1
1	2	4	3	6	9	7	8	5
3	8	5	7	2	4	1	6	9
7	9	6	5	8	1	4	2	3

ARABIC WORD OF THE DAY

Town

meh-deen-eh